

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Jobbing Trade Shows Improvement as Spring Season Approaches.

COUNTRY COLLECTIONS SATISFACTORY

Threatening Weather Somewhat Against the Retail Trade, but General Results Fairly Good—Satisfactory at South Omaha.

Weather conditions continue to exert a somewhat depressing influence upon the demand for merchandise appropriate to the season, but the total volume of business transacted is evidently very considerable and in many instances quite satisfactory.

The jobbers are reporting a very fair business to meet current demand, while spring orders are coming in quite freely for this early in the season. In hardware, especially, jobbers are reporting more snap than for a long time back, and it is noted that the mills in the east have been kept busy without the customary two or three weeks shut-down at the holidays. The boot and shoe people report no very active business in winter goods, but spring business is quite good. The various mercantile proprietors—the grocery jobbers are all very busy and agricultural implements people are looking forward to a prosperous season. On every side there are only good reports to be heard.

In the local retail trade the weather on a good many days has been dark and threatening so that shoppers have not ventured out in as large numbers as might otherwise be the case, but there is a pretty good volume of business doing on most days of the week and the general result of the week's operations were satisfactory, the fact most retail houses seemed well pleased.

At South Omaha a good volume of business was disposed of in the stock market, and the mild weather enabled work on the new packing plant to be pushed with vigor.

JOBBERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

St. Paul manufacturers and ships to South Omaha a carload of lard pads per week.

E. H. Sprague of E. H. Sprague & Co. spent a few days of the past week in Missouri.

The shoe stock which was assigned by J. E. Brown of Kearney will be sold on February 5 for the benefit of creditors.

H. G. Hart of the Williams-Hayward Shoe company was in Denver the past week and took a number of hours to look over the shoe situation in that city.

Present indications would seem to point to a great boom in creamery building this year in Nebraska, and the men engaged in talking up all sections of the state.

Lindner & Metcalf Co. report an unusually brisk demand for feed grinders consequent upon the fact that horses are again being used and when fed in Nebraska.

The carriage people are very busy just now with repair work and are expecting a very good business the coming spring.

It is reported that the local manufacturers of pianos are having a very large amount of attention.

Paxton & Gallagher company are very much engaged in the large number of letters which they have received from eastern manufacturers and jobbers in relation to the exhibition conveniences which they sent out in the last fall. The response from the country responded and the majority of the letters express surprise and pleasure at the enterprises shown by the city of Omaha in its efforts to make the exposition a success.

While the exposition was primarily designed as an advertisement of Paxton & Gallagher company, it has proven to be a most valuable advertisement of the exposition.

J. P. Israel, the editor of the Benkelman Chronicle and proprietor of the dry goods store now located in the jobbing district, Mr. Israel is a poet of no ordinary talent and sometimes favors his friends in the jobbing district with his poems.

He recently addressed a poem to Mr. Francis of the Burlington bewailing the change from the good old times when railroads not only made the world smaller but also made it better.

It is understood that the poem brought the coveted bit of paperoster, which the queen does not find in the jobbing district is what Mr. Francis means when he says that genius should be rewarded or from fear that the author might write another.

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The right indicated in the affairs of the company to be in a most prosperous condition.

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E. B. Branch of the wholesale produce and commission firm of Branch & Co. returned from Buffalo the early part of the week, where he went to attend the annual meeting of the New York Produce Commission merchants.

The attendance was very large and the meeting in every respect a great success.

It was decided to postpone the meeting until the second week in January.

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